

~~SECRET~~ KOREA L.T. P. 48. ~~Mon~~ May 9 - '51 Wednesday

(News today about the giant air strike in Korea pictures it as one of the most devastating assaults ever made from the sky) and it all began with something of a puzzle.

For days, American scout planes had been watching the flying field at Sinuiju, which was cleverly camouflaged. But in spite of the concealment, they were able to spot evidence that the Reds were pouring in airplanes, fuel, supplies. Sinuiju is just ~~an~~ south of the border, the Yalu River, and it was hard to figure why the Communists were stocking up a big air base there. Why not use the flying fields in Manchuria - that sanctuary immune from attack, only a few miles to the North? ^R The supposition was that the Reds might be planning big-time air action against the U.N. Army, full scale air support for an offensive on the ground - and preferred to do it from a base on Korean soil, not Manchuria. If they tried it from flying fields north of the Yalu, that might bring retaliation, American air ~~power~~ power hitting those

Manchurian bases.

Anyway, they had a big build-up at Sinuiju - and today that place was attacked by three-hundred-and-twelve American planes. The armada came ~~swooping~~ swooping in waves, American jets and propeller driven Mustangs at low level - spraying the base with explosive and flaming jellied gasoline. In minutes, the Red flying field was a roaring mass of ~~exp~~ explosions, and flame and smoke.

There was quick enemy alarm across the border, the Yalu - and, from the Manchurian bases, a swarm of enemy jets came speeding to repel the attack. But, high in the sky, one hundred and six American ~~jet~~ jets were flying cover - protecting the planes blasting the flying field. So ~~our~~ ^{our} jets ^{high} above came swooping down on the enemy planes, and beat them off, in a series of those flashing air battles between the speediest of aircraft.

The word tonight is that, of the Red planes massed on the ground, fifty to seventy were destroyed -

together with untold masses of supplies. For hours, the smoke was so dense that American photographic planes could not get clear pictures for a study of the damage.

One of the last of the pilots to hit the airbase was Major Joseph Baglio of Roslindale, Massachusetts. He says: "The ground was just about erupting. It looks like we hit an ammunition dump, along with all those Red planes on the ground."

In Korea, who says that these new radar bombing methods are wrecking the Communist way of attacking at night. General Stratemeyer mentions also the methods of lighting the ground by flares -- which, combined with the new radar, explains the smashing of the night attacks of the Chinese Reds, so formidable some little while ago.

KOREAN RADAR

In Tokyo, a disclosure that explains a good deal about the recent success of air attacks at night. A new technique of radar, worked out by the U.S. Air Force -- which permits planes as big as the B-29 Super Fortresses to make night raids against enemy positions, even though these are right in front of our own ground positions.

All of which is accompanied by a statement ^{Lieut.} from General George Stratemyer, our Air Commander in Korea, who says that these new radar bombing methods are wrecking the Communist way of attacking at night. General Stratemyer mentions also the methods of lighting the ground by flares -- which, combined with the new radar, explain the smashing of the night attacks of the Chinese ^{the Red attacks that were} ~~Reds~~ so formidable some little while ago.

In Korea, along the front, ~~the~~ the action was a lot less violent, hardly any action at all - although U N troops were on the move throughout the day. All the way across Korea, the Chinese Reds have made another of their mystifying withdrawals - pulling back toward the Thirty-Eighth Parallel^l, which they crossed in their previous big offensive. (Already, with hardly a fight, they have given up more than half the territory they won two weeks ago, at a cost of some seventy-five thousand casualties. They seem to be moving out of southern Korea completely.

That is the conclusion to be drawn from the U N advances today - a push for three miles northwest of Seoul, being typical of events all the way across the Peninsula.

KOREA - DOCTOR

In the Korean war, the doctor gets a medal -- the distinguished service cross "for extraordinary heroism." The story is a thriller of war and science -- as important an exploit as you could imagine.

Theme - bubonic plague.

During the winter, we heard of an outbreak of typhus among the Reds. Which sounded serious. But, our own soldiers had all been ~~just~~ inoculated against typhus, given the shots - and that was reassuring. Then in March, two months ago, more alarming word came to our military medical authorities over there - bubonic plague raging among the Reds. This was not certain - but even the surmise was enough to create a scare.

Allied soldiers had not been inoculated against bubonic plague - no shots for that. There had been little apprehension of the ^{the} dread malady in Korea. But now the Chinese and Korean Reds were ~~saying~~ said to have an epidemic -- recalling the "black death" which decimated Europe in the fourteenth century. If this

were true, it would be necessary to stage a mass inoculation of all the U N military forces - rush forward a huge supply of anti-plague vaccines, and give shots to a quarter of a million or more.

You can see the quandry^a of those top men of military medicine. What they needed was a diagnosis. Was it really bubonic plague? The way was for somebody to sneak behind the Communist lines, gather the information and make the diagnosis. It would have to be a doctor skilled in the knowledge of the bubonic plague.

The physician who stepped forward was
General
Brigadier ^{General} Crawford Sams of Atherton, California,
Chief of the U N Health section in Korea. He had made studies of Bubonic plague in the Middle East, and had treated many cases.

That brought on the adventure - when, on the night of March thirteenth, General Sams, with three comrade)
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^ adventurers, were taken in a warship to a point twenty miles off the coast in North Korea. There

a Navy whaleboat carried them to a line of beating surf, after which they paddled their way through the surf on a rubber raft.

In the black of night, they splashed their way to the enemy shore - and ran into trouble, the weirdest kind of trouble. Along a road, nearby, they could see a convoy of Chinese trucks. Explosions hit the trucks. American planes were bombing the Red convoy -- and were dropping flares to light the targets for bombing. The brilliance of the flares lit up the whole beach. The doctor and his companions might as well have been out there in broad daylight - on the enemy shore.

They did some fancy ducking, and were able to get into darkness again, making their way inland to a Korean village. There contacts had been arranged for them. The anti-Communist Korean underground had been lined up for a reconnaissance of the Red hospitals and military medical centers - gathering details, useful for a diagnosis.

So, at night, in the Korean village, General Sams was given point by ~~xxx~~ point information - precise enough for the physician who had studied bubonic plague in the Middle East. He made his diagnosis - the epidemic ^{turned out to be} ~~was~~ a kind of smallpox, called hemorrhagic smallpox, accompanied by hemorrhages. Not bubonic plague at all.

The diagnosis complete, the doctor and his three companions stole out of the village and made their way back to the beach - which now was dark, the bombing having ended. Back through the surf to the whaleboat, then to the warship - for a return journey with the news, the diagnosis.

On that basis, the medical chiefs made their decision - it would not be necessary to ~~xxxx~~ have a mass inoculation of the whole army against bubonic plague. And - today ~~xxxx~~ Brigadier General Crawford Sams was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross - for ^{just about the} ~~the~~ most adventurous diagnosis in medical history.

MARSHALL

Secretary of Defense Marshall says he sees no reason why the United States should not seek a negotiated peace in Korea -- once the Chinese Reds have been ripped to pieces and stopped. He said this would not be "appeasement," but would stop the loss of life and prevent the Korean conflict from spreading into World War Three.

He told why Japanese were not used in Korea. There were suggestions that the Japanese ~~would~~ be enlisted as volunteers, and used in battle against the Reds. But that was rejected -- because there's a treaty between Soviet Russia and Red China, guaranteeing Soviet aid, if the Chinese Communists are assailed by the Japanese on the mainland. So, it was thought Japanese volunteers in Korea might bring Soviet Russia into the conflict.

In a long day of testimony, many angles were brought up -- but the danger of a Third World War was a constant theme. General MacArthur believes that Soviet Russia would not intervene, if a limited

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war were waged against Red China. But Secretary Marshall thinks there's a large chance that the Soviets would intervene - and that's the administration view.

BIG FOUR

Secretary of State ~~Dean~~ Acheson tells us why the conference of the Deputy Foreign Ministers in Paris has been ~~in~~ in a deadlock for ten weeks. The Soviets have been insisting that the western powers halt their rearmament programs - this as a condition for a conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four.

Acheson told newsmen today that Moscow delegate Gromyko has been demanding insistently that the western powers agree to a suspension of their armament plans, while Soviet Russia and the Red ~~armies~~ satellites would be free to go on building massive military forces. Acheson called this -- "outrageous." Too high a price to pay for a conference of the Foreign Ministers, said he.

TAXES

The Ways and Means Committee of the House votes an increase ~~in~~ of individual income taxes to the tune of two billion, nine hundred and fifty million dollars a year. That's more than a billion less than President Truman asked for - he wanting an increase ~~in~~ of four billion, to help finance the giant rearmament program on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The hike voted by the committee today would raise income taxes in every bracket by three percentage points.

Word from Panama is that the national police forces have opened fire on supporters of President Arias. The national police amounts to the army down there, and is opposed to the presidential seizure of dictatorial powers. Arias dissolved the National Assembly last weekend, and proclaimed a government by decree. (Trouble has been increasing ever since, and today there was a state of virtual anarchy in Panama, with mobs roaring through the streets.

In a gunfight, police forces are said to have routed supporters of Arias - while partisans of the President-Dictator are described as moving ^{on} the capital city.

ADD PANAMA

The latest -- dispatch from Panama City stating that President Arias has yielded -- giving into mobs that staged a virtual revolution. He has agreed to restore constitutional government - we are told.

SHIPS

At Chicago, the big ship made it safely today - getting in to Lake Michigan. The Freighter Clifs Victory, the largest vessel ever to make a voyage up the Mississippi River and into the great Lakes.

The ship started out from Baltimore. Then around to the Father of Waters. After which, the voyage included scores of tight squeezes, under bridges and through locks. From the Mississippi into the Illinois River - and today through the heart of ^{the} downtown district of Chicago. There was a breathless moment, as the ponderous craft slewed sideways against the lock at the mouth of the Chicago River. But the Clifs Victory squeezed through that one too - and out into Lake Michigan.

BEN-GURION

The Prime Minister of Israel got his ticker tape celebration in New York today - David Ben-Gurion proceeding in a parade up Broadway, in a snowstorm of paper. The police estimate that a million persons lined the street, while a hundred thousand gathered around City Hall - where Mayor Impelliteri gave an official welcome to the head of the Government of Israel.

GAMBLING

(Sensational facts were disclosed today in the Brooklyn police-gambler scandal. In the million dollar a year pay-offs, policemen collected bribe money in "bushel baskets." Gambler Harry Gross kept a twenty million dollar a year bookmaking syndicate going by bribing "some of the highest ranking police officers.") One of these loaned Gross money to keep him going in the gambling business.

A police Lieutenant handed back one-hundred-and-thirty-five-thousand-dollars-in-cash; - because it came in five-hundred and one-thousand dollar bills. Too big to be convenient - so he demanded the one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars of bribe money in five and ten dollar bills.!

WOMEN

There's a battle of women at the old town of Nottingham, in England, and the subject of the controversy is - Cleopatra, who was quite a gal. At Nottingham, they^Rre preparing a pageant, called - "Women through the ages." Chief among the heroines will be Britain's favorite, Florence Nightingale, founder of the Red Cross. Other great ladies too -- eminent in other lands and times. So the author of the script, Nellie Smith, included - Cleopatra, of those famous romances, featuring Caesar and Marc Anthony.

Today, when that became known, there was an angry protest from Emily Roseblade, Chairman of the joint conference of women organizations. "No"! she cried; "Cleopatra has no place beside Florence Nightingale!" She points out that the reputation of Florence Nightingale was spotless, while Cleopatra's reputation was, shall we say - spotty. Anyway, the battle of women is on, in Nottingham - the ladies rallying for ~~the~~ and against Cleopatra.

The unfortunate part of it all is that,

in the battle of women, the issue would be decided, finally, by the pageant committee - most of the members of which are men. Today, one of these remarked, with an uneasy air: "We rather hope the women will settle it among themselves."

Women generally figure things out just about right, don't they Nelson?